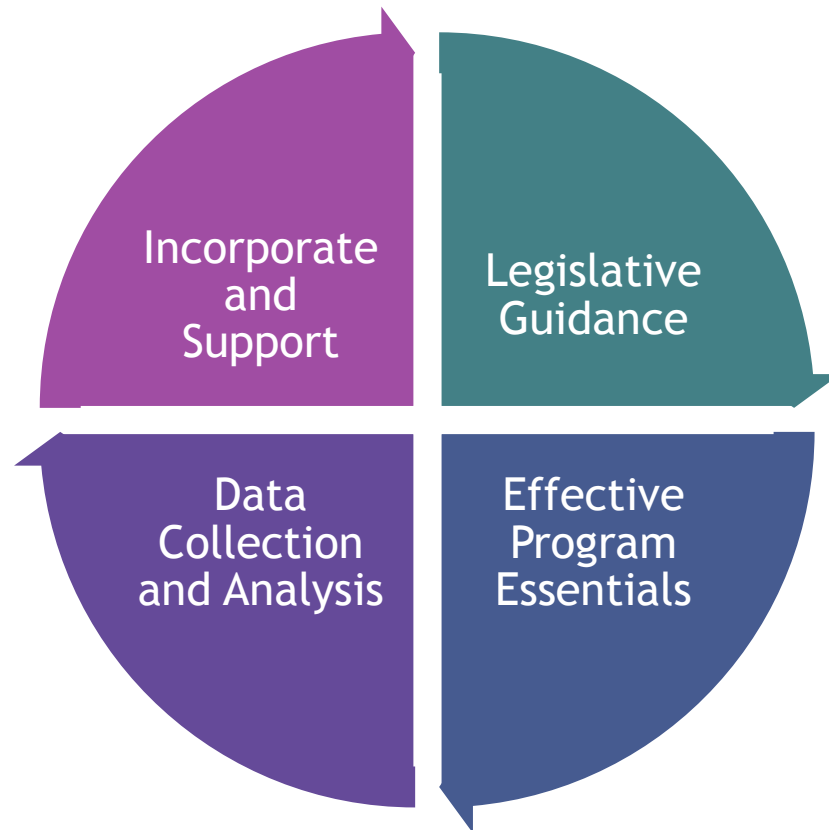# Supporting Program Decision Making with Data

Data Coordinator's Conference 2017

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Overview

Legislative Guidance

Texas Family Code Sec. 51.01

Human Resource Code Sec. 203.017 (h)

Human Resource Code Sec. 223.001

85th Texas Legislative Session 2017, Rider 28

Sec. 51.01. PURPOSE AND INTERPRETATION.

This title shall be construed to effectuate the following public purposes:

(1) to provide for the protection of the public and public safety;

(2) consistent with the protection of the public and public safety:

(A) to promote the concept of punishment for criminal acts;

(B) to remove, where appropriate, the taint of criminality from children committing certain unlawful acts; and

(C) to provide treatment, training, and rehabilitation that emphasizes the accountability and responsibility of both the parent and the child for the child's conduct;

(3) to provide for the care, the protection, and the wholesome moral, mental, and physical development of children coming within its provisions;

(4) to protect the welfare of the community and to control the commission of unlawful acts by children;

(5) to achieve the foregoing purposes in a family environment whenever possible, separating the child from the child's parents only when necessary for the child's welfare or in the interest of public safety and when a child is removed from the child's family, to give the child the care that should be provided by parents; and

(6) to provide a simple judicial procedure through which the provisions of this title are executed and enforced and in which the parties are assured a fair hearing and their constitutional and other legal rights recognized and enforced.

Sec. 203.017. REGIONALIZATION PLAN.

(d) The department shall ensure that each region has defined, appropriate, research-based programs for the target populations under the regionalization plan.

(e) The regionalization plan must:

(2) create a new division of the department responsible for administering the regionalization plan and monitoring program quality and accountability;

(f)   The division created under Subsection (e)(2) shall:

(2) provide training on best practices for all local probation departments affected by the regionalization plan;

(3) assist in research-based program development;

(5) analyze department data to provide clear guidance to local probation departments on outcome measures; and

(6) report on performance of specific programs and placements to assist in implementing best practices and maximize the impact of state funds.

(g) A region is eligible for funding to support evidence-based, intensive in-home services only if the region meets the performance standards established by the department and adopted in contracts for placement and services.

(h) The department shall adopt rules to allow the local probation departments implementing the regionalization plan to access the data submitted by those departments in the state juvenile case management system for planning and research purposes.

Added by Acts 2015, 84th Leg., R.S., Ch. 962 (S.B. 1630), Sec. 4, eff. September 1, 2015.

Sec. 223.001. DETERMINATION OF AMOUNT OF STATE AID.

(b) The legislature may appropriate the amount of state aid necessary to supplement local funds to maintain and improve statewide juvenile services that comply with department standards and to initiate and support the regionalization plan under Section 203.017 so that savings are generated by decreases in the population of department facilities operated under Subtitle C.

(c) The department shall set aside a portion of the funds appropriated to the department for discretionary state aid to fund programs designed to address special needs or projects of local juvenile boards, including projects dedicated to specific target populations based on risk and needs, and with established recidivism reduction goals. The department shall develop discretionary grant funding protocols based on documented, data-driven, and research-based practices.

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Local Assistance. Funds appropriated above in Strategy F.1.1, Central Administration, shall be used to increase technical assistance on program design and evaluation for programs operated by juvenile probation departments. This shall include, but not be limited to:

a. providing in-depth consultative **technical assistance on program design, implementation, and evaluation to local juvenile probation departments**;

b. assisting juvenile probation departments in developing logic models for all programs;

c. developing recommended performance measures by program type;

d. facilitating partnerships with universities, community colleges, or larger probation departments to assist departments with statistical program evaluations where feasible;

e. **following current research on juvenile justice program design, implementation, and evaluation**; and,

f. **disseminating best practices to juvenile probation departments.**

Staff who perform these duties shall be included in the agency's research function and shall not be responsible for monitoring departments' compliance with standards.

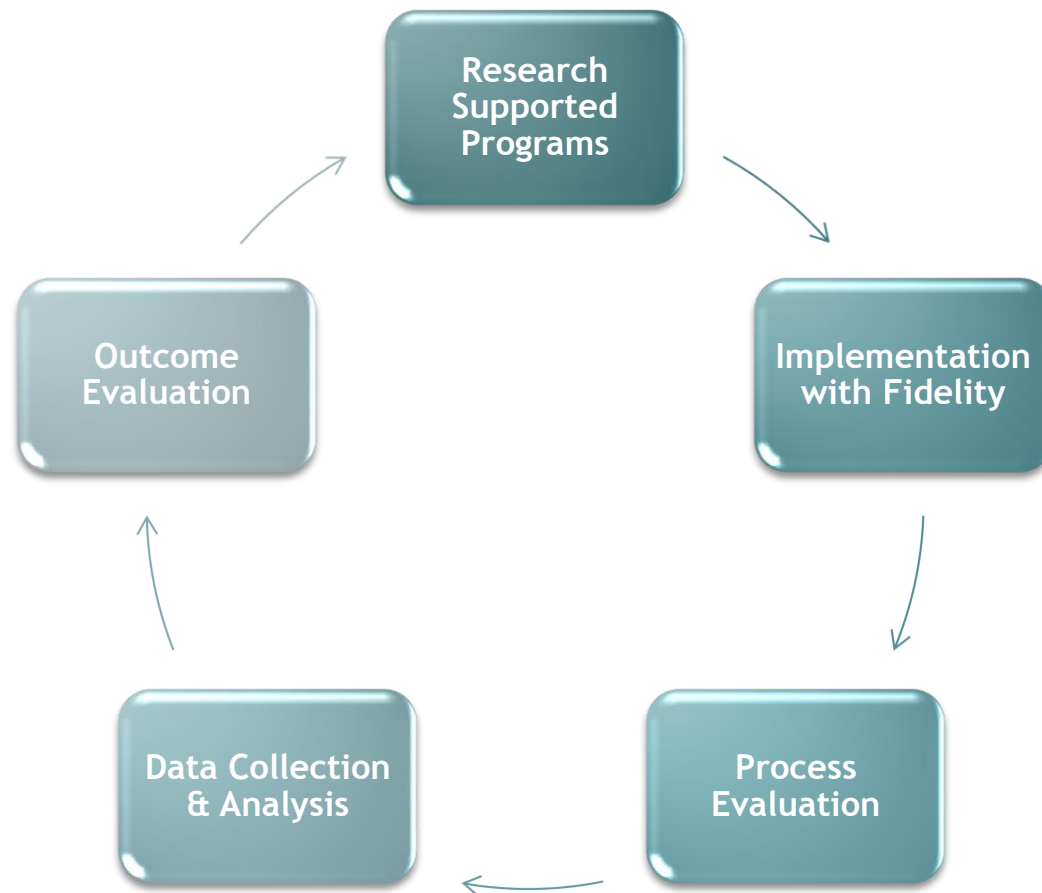*2009 – Mandate to collect comprehensive data concerning program outcomes*

2011 – Mandate to develop performance measures of the effectiveness of programs and services on the outcomes of youth

2013 – Mandate to provide in-depth training and technical assistance on program design, implementation, and evaluation

2015 – Reinstated 2013 mandate, continued focus on measuring outcomes

2017 – Continued 2013/2015 mandate

Effective Programs

Data Collection & Analysis

Challenges
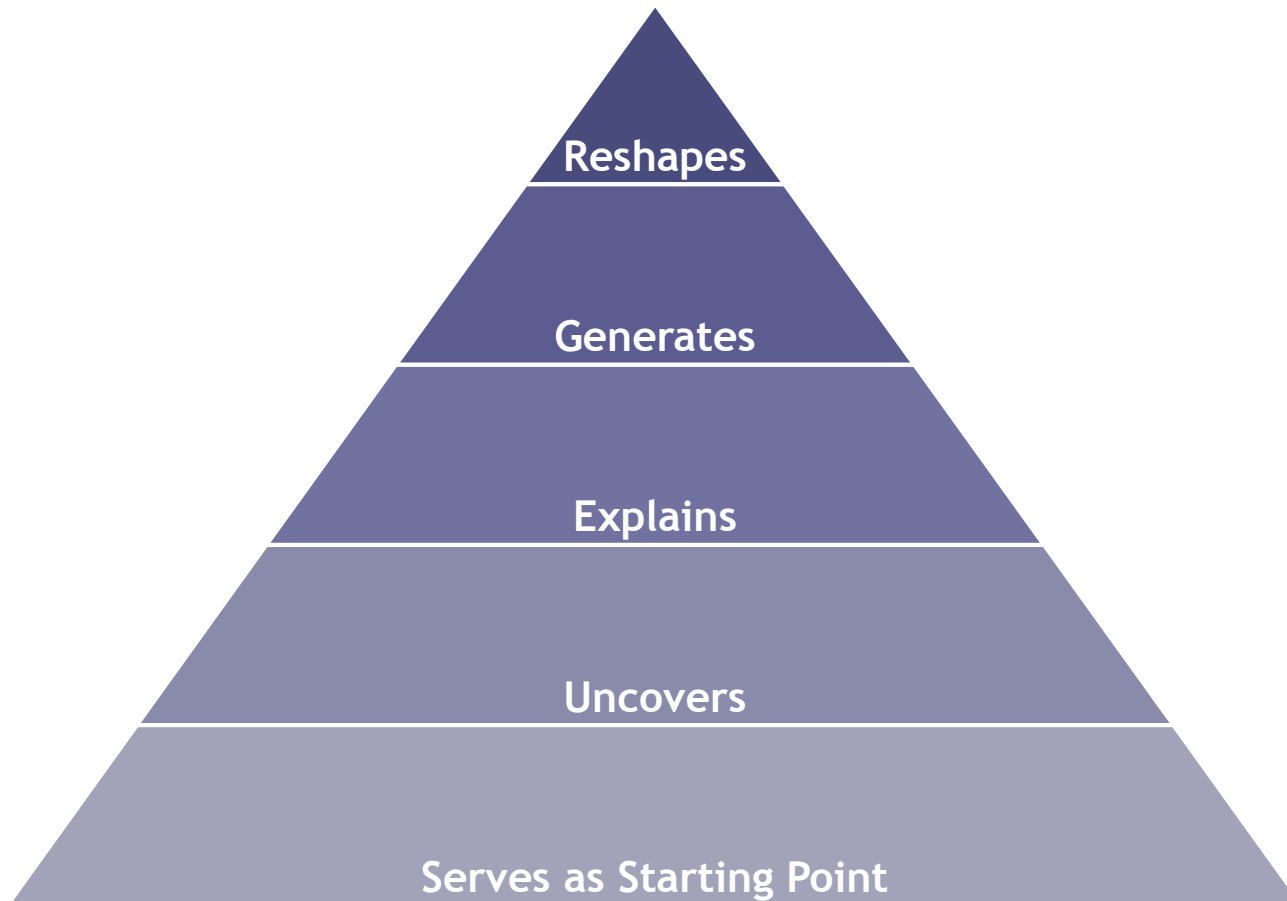
Fragmented

Incomplete

Late

Missing

Incorrect

Suggested Strategies

- Periodic Data Checks
  - Spot checks
  - Informal data audits
  - Ad Hoc reports
  - Weekly Comprehensive Folder Edit runs

- Regular Training
  - General data collection practices
  - Comprehensive Data Audit Results
  - Funding Source Audit Results

- Create instruction documents for repeat tasks
  - Standard Operating Procedures

- Set guidelines for entering data
  - Enter Dispositions within 48 hours of receiving information and Referrals within 24 hours
  - Submit the extract by the 10th of each month
    - If the 10th is on a weekend, submit it on the weekday prior to the 10th
    - Set a calendar reminder the day before it is due

Benefits

Step 1:
Data Collection & Quality Check

Step 2:
Analysis & Interpretation

Step 3:
Support Decision Making

Two Scenarios

Expected

Unexpected

Scenario 1

Scenario 2

Animation by Allie Brosh

Data Collection & Quality

Considerations	Sources

Considerations

- Where does the data come from?

- How reliable is the data?
  - Timely
  - Accurate

- How is the data used?

Sources

- Grant Application

- JCMS/CMS ad hoc reports

- Internal data collection efforts

- Contractors

- Other Partners

Analysis & Interpretation

Describe

- Total Count
- Average (Mean)
- Middle Value (Median)
- Most Frequently Occurring Value (Mode)
- Minimum Value
- Maximum Value
- Percent of the Whole Value

Reflection

- What is the data telling us?

- What questions can the data answer?
  - What vs. Why

- How is the data important for planning purposes?

Suggested Tools

- Excel
  - Tables, Charts, and Graphs
  - Formulas

- Pivot Tables
  - Click and Create
  - Drag and Drop

- Statistical Software
  - Run Complex Analysis
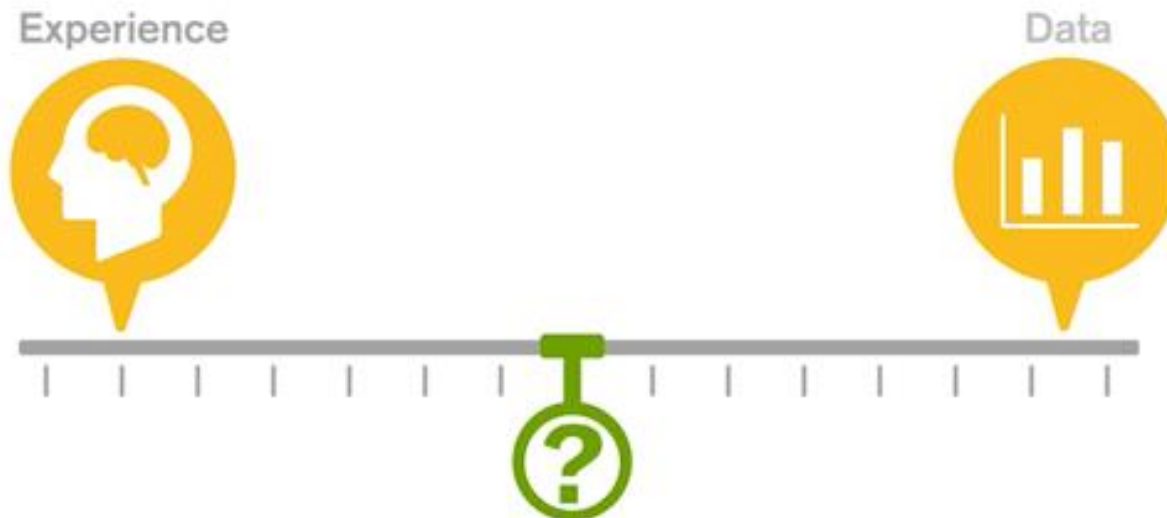 - Produces Tables, Charts, and Graphs

Support Decision Making

Now what?

- Focus on target data point(s)

- Identify key personnel

- Facilitate guided conversations:

To include:

- Examine department practice, policy, and process

- Question what action should be taken
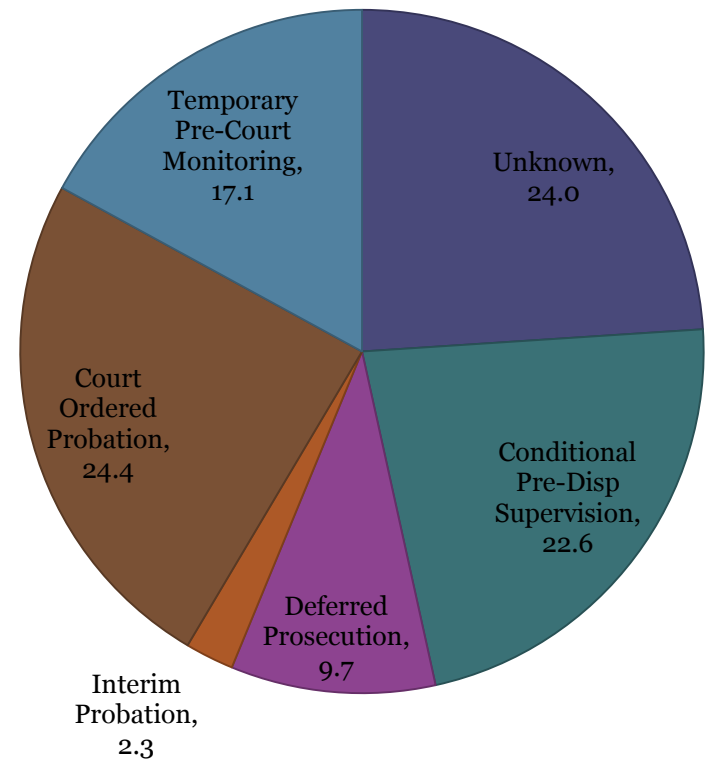
- Incorporate data as a mainstay

Decision Making Spectrum

Discretionary State Aid Grant

- Research supported programs

- Specific target populations based on:
  - Risk (Medium – High)
  - Needs (Moderate – High)

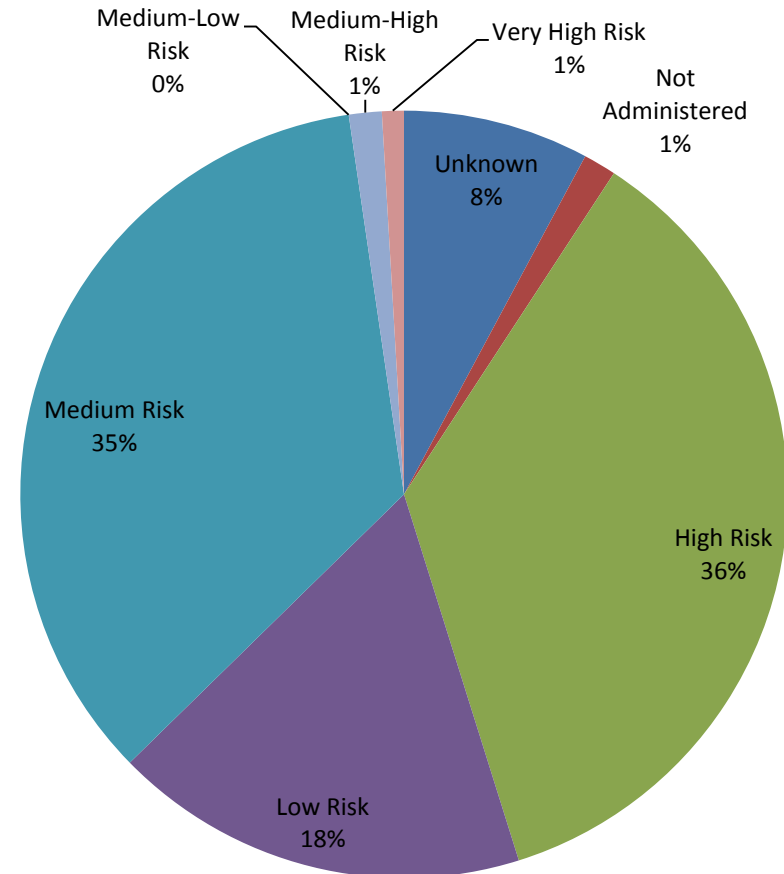- Established recidivism reduction goals

Target Population - Supervision

Supervision Type	Count	Percent
Unknown	52	24.0
Conditional Pre-Disp Supervision	49	22.6
Deferred Prosecution	21	9.7
Interim Probation	5	2.3
Court Ordered Probation	53	24.4
Temporary Pre-Court Monitoring	37	17.1
Total	**217**	**100.0**

Target Population – Risk Level

Risk Level	Count	Percent
Unknown	17	7.8
Not Administered	3	1.4
High Risk	78	35.9
Low Risk	38	17.5
Medium Risk	76	35.0
Medium-Low Risk	0	0
Medium-High Risk	3	1.4
Very High Risk	2	0.9
Total	**217**	

Take Away

- Make data and data integrity a priority
  - Minimize barriers
  - Enhance data accessibility

- Bring data to the table

- Center conversations around data points
  - Ask questions
  - Make suggestions

Questions?

Animation by Allie Brosh

Resources

- TJJD Research & Planning Webinars

  - Program Development Webinar Series:
    http://www.tjjd.texas.gov/statistics/default.aspx

  - Describing Your Programs Using Logic Models (06/30/16)
    http://www.tjjd.texas.gov/regionaltraining/webinars.aspx

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